

Message Text

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61

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-04 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /025 W

----- 002636

R 272116Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1548

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EO 11652: NA

TAG: CASC, CI (NEIDHARDT, ROBERT J., AND NEIDHARDT, KATHRYN)

SUBJ: CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TO AMCITS WITH DEPARTURE PROBLEMS

1. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN TWO CASES CONCERNING CONSULAR PROTECTION OF AMCITS, ABOUT WHICH DEPT SHOULD BE INFORMED. THEY INVOLVE AMCIT HOLY CROSS PRIEST AND HIS AMCIT SISTER, WHO WERE ASSISTED IN DEPARTING CHILE WITHOUT INCIDENT BY CONSULAR OFFICERS.

2. CASES CAME TO OUR ATTENTION 18 DEC WHEN FATHER PHILIP DEVLIN, LOCAL HEAD OF HOLY CROSS FATHERS HERE SINCE DEPARTURE OF ROBERT PLASKER, CAME TO CONSULATE TO REPORT THAT ARMED MEN, PRESUMABLY FROM ONE OF THE ARMED FORCES INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, HAD COME TO THE ORDER'S RETREAT LOOKING FOR ROBERT J. NEIDHARDT, A SEMINARIAN OF THE ORDER. DEVLIN SAID HE HAD DECIDED TO GET NEIDHARDT OUT OF CHILE BEFORE A POSSIBLE ARREST OR EXPLUSION ORDER MIGHT BE PROCESSED AGAINST HIM. DEVLIN REPORTED NEIDHARDT'S RESIDENCE VISA HAD EXPIRED LONG BEFORE. THE CONSOFF WHO SPOKE WITH DEVLIN OFFERED EMBASSY'S HELP IN PROCESSING SAFE-CONDUCT REQUEST BUT DEVLIN PREFERRED TO PROCESS IT THROUGH A TRAVEL AGENCY TO AVOID CALLING ATTENTION TO IT. DEVLIN WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OFFERED OPTION OF HAVING NEIDHARDT STAY AT CONSULATE WHILE AWAITING DEPARTURE; BUT HE DECIDED HE WAS NOT IN DANGER. SAFE CONDUCT WAS ROUTINELY APPROVED IN PROCESSING BY TRAVEL AGENCY AND CONSOFF ACCOMPANIED NEIDHARDT TO AIRPORT ON 21 DECEMBER. HE WAS PROCESSED OUT WITHOUT INCIDENT AND DEPARTED FOR LIMA.

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3. PROBLEM OF NEIDHARDT'S DEPARTURE WAS COMPOUNDED BY FACT THAT HIS YOUNGER SISTER, KATHRY, WAS WORKING WITH A CHILDREN'S HOME ASSOCIATED WITH HOLY CROSS ORDER AND HAD OVERSTAYED HER VISA BY TWO MONTHS. DEVLIN DECIDED TO HAVE HER BROTHER LEAVE BEFORE PROCESSING HER DEPARTURE. ONCE NEIDHARDT HAD LEFT, CONSULATE REQUESTED SAFE-CONDUCT FOR KATHRYN, DULY NOTING HER OVERSTAY, AND IT WAS PROCESSED ROUTINELY. CONSOFF ALSO ACCOMPANIED HER IN AIRPORT DEPARTURE PROCEDURES AND SHE LEFT CHILE FOR US ON 25 DECEMBER.
POPPER

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